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EDITORIAL COMMENT

PROFESSIONAL PARENTAGE

MORE than once we have observed the phenomenon of an unusually competent mother rearing a feckless daughter. Our sympathies have usually been with the daughter because the mother, glorying in her strength and ability and too impatient to teach because she found it so easy to do things herself, unconsciously caused the very incompetence she deplored. We have some nursing organizations in which an analogous situation seems to exist. Just as the mothers described found it easier to do than to teach, so do we find little circles of executives going on year after year, carrying the whole responsibility because they are unwilling or afraid to delegate their authority and thus fail to develop new workers. It is these groups who most deplore the tendency of the rising generation to avoid responsibility. Of course they will avoid responsibility if the load is not gradually adjusted to their shoulders. Few, indeed, are the people in any walk of life who have entered directly into large affairs.

They are not really competent who fail to build for the future. No organization is sound, whether it be an alumnae, a district or a state association, if it is dependent on one individual or little group of persons. It may be flattering to one's vanity to feel that an organization is dependent on one's efforts, but such a condition indicates weak executive ability. Let us give our young graduates the widest possible opportunity for developing qualities of leadership. It takes real courage to stand by

and allow mistakes to be made, but some lessons, which each generation has to learn for itself, seem to be learned only in this way.

"A city set upon a hill cannot be hid!" Our profession is rich in shining personalities that cannot be hid. Doubtless these gifted ones were born to lead, but even they have been dependent upon opportunity for the fullness of their development. It is only a half truth to say that leaders are born and not made. Only experience can fully develop the courage and vision, the open mindedness and critical judgment that characterize the true leader.

Among our young nurses of today the administrators and leaders of tomorrow must inevitably be found. Give them a chance to develop their latent powers. Put them on committees, encourage them to have a voice in meetings by giving them something to report upon, give them a chance to grow by doing! By assuming the habit of power they will put themselves in the way of such tasks as will call their developing ability into action. Let those who are active today prove their competence by thoughtfully encouraging a generation whose initiative is unquestioned but which needs guiding into desirable channels. As Dr. Beard has happily phrased it, let us "cultivate the instinct of professional parentage" in this important aspect of our work. Sooner or later today's workers must lay down their tasks. Their achievements will most surely live after them if they build not only for, but with their possible successors.

GOING-UP DAYS

IN May we enjoyed the privilege of attending two unique ceremonies for nurses in the JOURNAL's home city. The Community Commencement for the classes of three schools was a brilliant and dignified occasion enjoyed by several thousand people.

While watching the lines of gleaming white-clad figures taking their place on the great stage and the blue-uniformed students filing into row upon row of seats below them, emotion caught one's throat at thus contemplating so much actual and potential nursing power. No finer expression could have been given the modern crusading spirit, a spirit which demands careful preparation before launching forth toward any definite objective.

The second event which was hardly comparable in size or importance, was planned wholly by the members of a class which had just completed the preliminary course. They called it their "Going-up Day" because they appeared before a group of admiring relatives and friends, in all the dignity of newly won caps, to be presented by their instructors to the director of the school as fully ready for the second stage of their nursing education. Their joy in work well done was celebrated in original song, address and prophesy, and through it all one caught again the crusading spirit, the zealous enthusiasm of those who are impelled to press forward toward a deeply desired goal. Our great philosopher, John Dewey, says "Happiness is found only in success; but success means succeeding, getting forward, moving in advance. It is an active process, not a passive outcome."

The great occasion and the little ceremony alike were eloquent of such happiness.

Many nurses, both student and graduate, are having unheralded "Going-up Days" at this season; those who were Juniors are now Intermediates, the Intermediates have become Seniors and the recent graduates are adjusting themselves to private duty or positions in hospitals and in public health work. With the beginning of the school year, many instructors and executives are assuming new responsibilities. For all we would say that these days are full of promise. Permit yourselves the satisfaction of evaluating your past achievements, turn your failures into assets by recognizing them frankly for what they are, and face forward eagerly and hopefully to the new objective. Your "Going-up Days" will then become milestones of your progress and your happiness.

PROGRAMMES

WITH the end of the vacation season and the stimulus of a tang of frost in the air, comes the annual resurgence of association activities. There is much discussion of programmes and hopes are high for a fruitful year.

The man in the street has a crude saying that seems applicable here: Do not depend on your wishbone for what your backbone should do. In other words, hopes alone are not productive, but hopes transmuted into clear cut programmes and executed by energetic, live minded, co-operative groups, will bear rich fruitage in professional advancement.

The initial responsibility rests with

the Programme Committee. Of the ever increasing subjects of interest, which will prove of most value this year? In the main this must be decided by local needs, but we believe every association will devote at least one programme to the report of the Committee on Nursing Education. Actual work along lines suggested by the report will be facilitated by thoughtful consideration of Miss Goldmark's detailed study from which the report was made; this will be in print shortly.

We cannot too soon familiarize ourselves with this unbiased study that is concerned with present conditions, not for the purpose of discrediting them, but in order that we may build solidly for the future.

The national health organizations have a wealth of material available for distribution for those who prepare papers. Many of them have speakers in the field who would gladly adjust their itineraries to meet your dates, if invited sufficiently in advance.

Our book reviews of the last year indicate some notable contributions to our professional literature. Institutional and public health nurses who, by the very nature of their work, are obliged to keep up to date on such books, could be of tremendous help to the private duty group by giving brief talks on some of these books, emphasizing both the strong and weak points. Private duty nurses are chary of adding to their libraries books of whose worth they are uncertain, knowing all too well the disadvantages to a nomad—even a high type one—of many impedimenta. The private duty nurses, on the other hand, could make a cultural contribu-

tion of no uncertain worth, to the other groups, for theirs is often the privilege of reading and discussing with able people the best of our current literature. Ten minutes so used at each meeting should prove stimulating and profitable.

Every delegate who heard Miss Sly at Seattle, is doubtless urging the formation of classes for drill in Parliamentary Procedure in both associations and training schools. True democracy demands such knowledge. It also gives self confidence to the diffident nurse who expresses her really worth while opinion to her cronies after the meeting instead of at the time it would be of most worth; i. e., when the question was before the house.

These are only a few suggestions—the field is inexhaustible and ripe for the gleaning of alert programme committees.

THREE INTERESTING COMMITTEES

THREE committees which should be specially alive are those on the Calendar, the Relief Fund, and the JOURNAL.

The Calendar Committee may be a new one and its activities are short-lived, only from now until Christmas. Its duties are to secure orders for the calendar to be issued at Christmas time by the National League of Nursing Education, through its headquarters office, and to secure and deliver the calendars. The calendar will be of practical use with its clear figures, as was the case last year, and it will present the portraits and sketches of twelve nurse educators, women we should all know about. The names of these twelve women will be secured by

a vote of seventy nurses in various parts of the country, so that we are assured a representative group.

The Relief Fund Committee should make itself well informed regarding the work of the Fund and should have something of interest to state regarding the Fund at each meeting. It should keep posted on just what is being done for the Relief Fund by the State Association of which it is a part, how near it came to its quota of 100 per cent last year, how many nurses from the state have been or are being helped. It should supply itself with the little Relief Fund leaflets which may be obtained from the secretary of the American Nurses' Association, and it should make sure that at the end of the year a subscription has been turned in to the State chairman amounting to \$1 per member. It is much better if each member really gives her own share, but if this is not possible, others may wish to help those who cannot contribute, or some entertainment may be given to make up the amount.

Almost every district and alumnae association has a Publication Committee, one of whose duties it is to send news and announcements to the JOURNAL and to secure subscriptions. This committee should be active, not passive. It should try, if possible, to have a discussion of the current number of the JOURNAL made a part of each month's programme, ten minutes being given to a resume by one member of the most important items. It should send to the JOURNAL all important news from the association, and should secure from the JOURNAL, subscription blanks, so that members may be ready at each meeting to take and forward subscrip-

tions. The JOURNAL office will gladly check up any membership list, showing just which members are subscribers, if some alert committee wishes to make a personal canvass. Sample copies of the JOURNAL will always be furnished to such volunteer agents.

Let us push "our JOURNAL" as never before.

FRAUDULENT AGENTS

OVER and over again we have warned our readers about subscribing for the JOURNAL through unknown persons, but no month goes by without some nurses, somehow, somewhere, being deluded into renewing at one-third off (an utterly impossible rebate!), subscribing through an agent who appealingly purports to be working his way through College, but who has nothing from the JOURNAL to show, or some other fraud. We wish every student, during her training, could become familiar with the green slips and stationery that make the JOURNAL's mail so distinctive. Perhaps fewer graduates would then be misled. Many states have been afflicted with these pests. The most recent complaints have come from Arizona, Indiana and Michigan but, by the time this magazine is off the press, the agile workers will have sought new pastures. Hence this warning.

If our busy and preoccupied readers would only stop to think, they would realize how impossible it is for any agent to be more generous than we are, for the margin between the cost and the selling price of the JOURNAL is exceedingly small.

We can warn those who already

subscribe. Unfortunately, we have no means of warning *prospective* subscribers. The associations, especially the alumnae and district associations could protect their own members by making the JOURNAL, its value and the cost of a subscription, so widely known that there can be no possibility of unauthorized persons creeping in unawares. No nurse can afford to be fleeced out of all or part of the cost of a subscription. Our subscribers are urged to give the widest possible publicity to this warning by urging nurses to subscribe and to renew through nursing channels or through well known and established magazine agencies.

DELANO NURSES

AN appointment as a Delano Nurse is at once a distinction and a sacred trust implying sound preparation and amplex of spirit. The first nurses to be so honored under the terms of Miss Delano's will, Stella M. Fuller and Bertha R. Steeves, have just received their appointments as announced in the Red Cross Department of this JOURNAL. Both nurses have a background of rich and varied experience in teaching and in public health work. These "missioners of health" are splendidly qualified and will have the privilege of building into the very lives of the people they serve, something of the spirit of the great woman whose name they bear and whose vision and sympathy with those who dwell in isolated places is making this health work possible.

In establishing this memorial to her parents, Jane A. Delano perpetuated something of her own ideals of nursing.

May successive generations of Delano nurses carry with them the lofty ideals and consecrated spirit of service that characterize the first appointees.

HOW DOES YOUR STATE STAND?

IT is the ambition of the editors to serve *all* nurses, but even a superficial examination of our files indicates that not all nurses are granting us that privilege. Many of our subscribers are registered but we have many faithful friends who are not. A highly gratifying number of JOURNALS go to married nurses. The division of foreign subscriptions reads like a romance, for we have friends in all the corners of the earth where nurses have penetrated.

A comparison of the number of JOURNALS going to each state as compared with the number of members of the American Nurses' Association, has proved most interesting. Turn to the table in this *Journal* and find out how your state stands. If you happen to live in a state with a large and active nursing population you may be surprised to find that it is not your state, but Oklahoma, that stands at the top by having most subscribers in proportion to its members. Some of the other Southern states have made splendid records and they are not resting on their laurels—their percentages are still going up! Where does your state stand?

Printed copies of The Report of the Committee on Nursing Education, made by Josephine Goldmark under the direction of the Rockefeller Foundation, can be secured from the office of the National League of Nursing Education, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City,—price 15 cents per copy.